The NLM Value Set Authority Center at 1 year

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The NLM Value Set Authority Center (VSAC) is designed to be the 'source of truth' for value sets in the domain of biomedicine. It was built in collaboration with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). Launched in October 2012, VSAC was born out of the immediate need to have a one-stop-shopping point to capture data elements required by 2014 EHR Clinical Quality Measures. In its short lifetime, VSAC has already achieved some major milestones:

- Implemented a REST Application Programming Interface (API) in accordance with the *Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) Sharing Value Sets (SVS)* specification to provide value sets in XML form;
- Provided a Graphical User Interface (GUI) with several ways to search for value sets;
- Provided pre-packaged spreadsheets of value sets and measure data for implementers;
- Gone through two updates for CMS Eligible Hospital (EH) and Eligible Provider (EP) measures;
- Launched a beta version of the VSAC Authoring Environment, a standalone authoring system for value sets.

In the meantime, VSAC has continued to grow and expand its repository beyond the domain of Meaningful Use into other areas such as Patient Assessment instruments, Common Data Elements for research, public health, the ONC S&I Framework, FHIMS, and other clinical modeling efforts.

The VSAC is available at https://vsac.nlm.nih.gov/. Viewing and/or downloading value sets requires a free Unified Medical Language System® Metathesaurus License, due to usage restrictions on some of the codes included in the value sets.
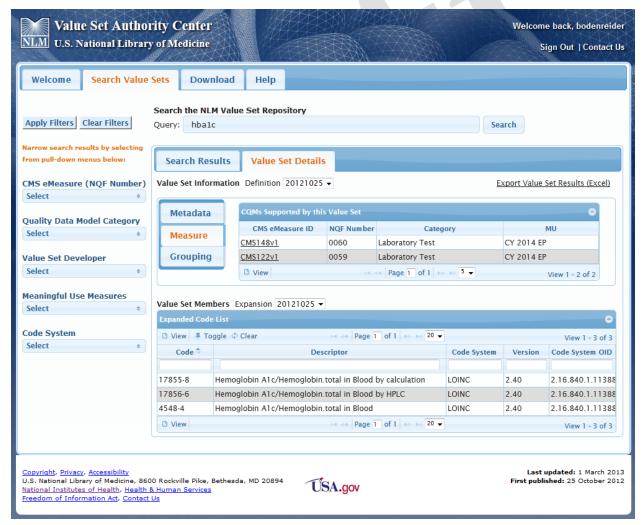

Figure 1. Screenshot of the NLM Value Set Authority Center (VSAC) web application